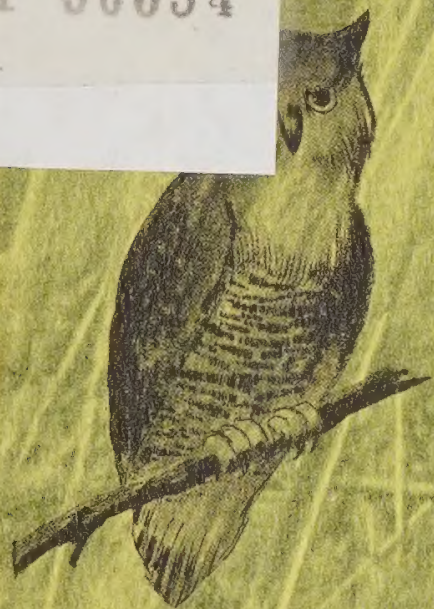


81 00054



ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS and THE PARK TAX DOLLAR

East Bay Regional Park District • Stewardship Report 1969

8/00054

DO YOU WANT THIS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Six years ago, the last vestige of clean air in the United States vanished at the pleasant community of Flagstaff, Ariz. It succumbed to an engulfing wave of air pollution borne on sinister, smog-laden winds originating on the California coast.

Scientists have been unable to find any truly uncontaminated air in the nation since that time.

Perhaps this incident best epitomizes the crisis that is upon us—the crisis of environmental pollution.

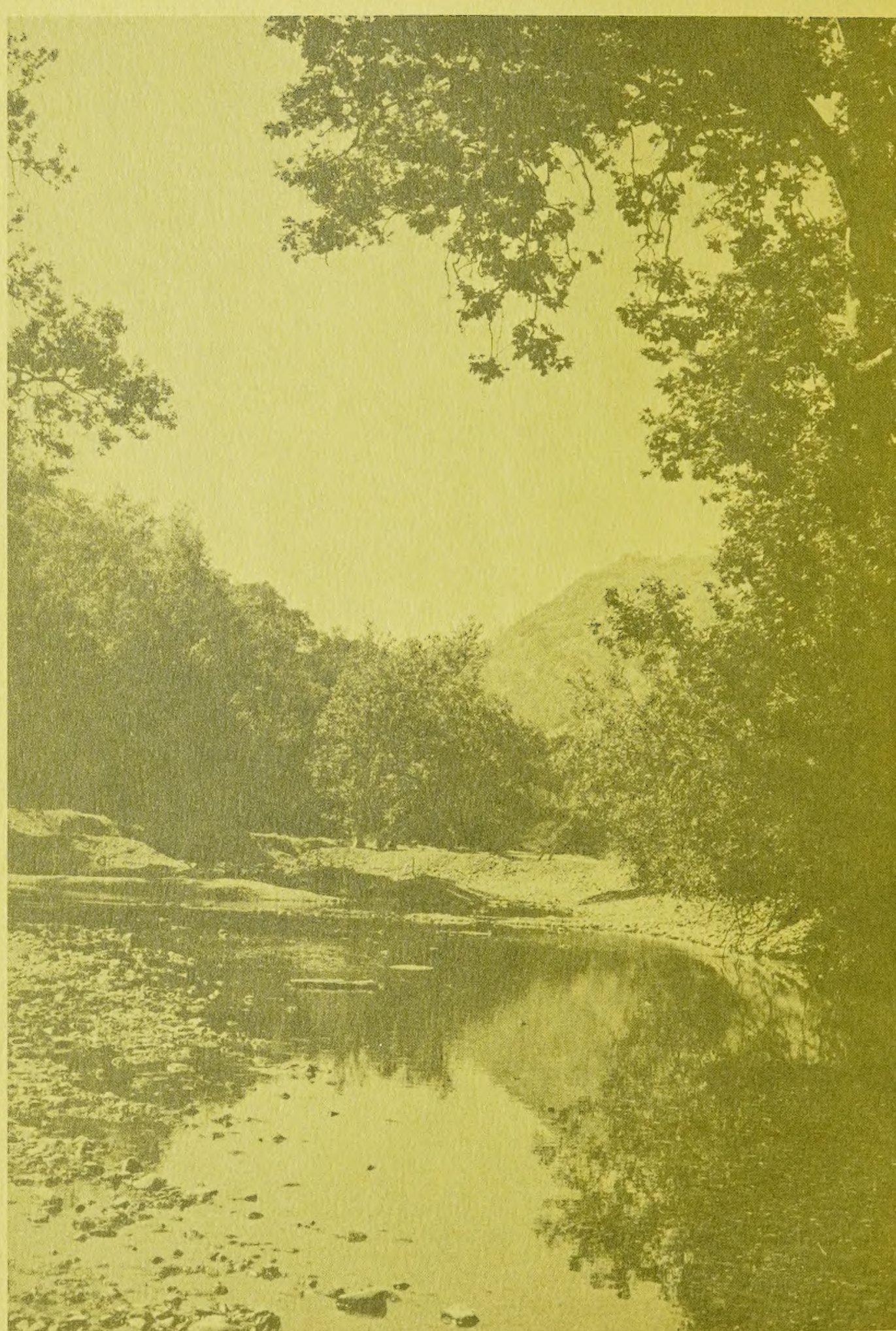
Land in this country is being urbanized at the frightening rate of 3000 acres daily. That's more than 1,000,000 acres a year. Much of it is agricultural land soon to be buried under a sea of concrete or black top. One million of us leave the rural areas for the cities each year. Seventy percent of all Americans now live on 10 percent of the land.

Locally, there were 582,000 persons in Alameda and Contra Costa counties in 1934 when the Park District was founded; an estimated 1,611,900 last year; and the projection for the year 2000 is 3,120,000.

From where we sit at the start of these challenging seventies, parks and open space of all kinds are among the most potent weapons in our environmental arsenal in this urgent battle to save our planet.

Everyone appears to be against pollution now; terms of derision such as "posy pluckers" and "bird watchers" are no longer fashionable.

The East Bay Regional Park District has registered substantial gains in the decade just past; nearly 12,000 acres have been added to the District's total park acreage in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. We now have 20 parks aggregating 22,000 acres; 15 are open and operating; the balance will be opened as soon as funds become available. We are trying to stay ahead of the bulldozers and price inflation as we acquire new park lands. Ten, 20 years from now, these precious recreational acres will no longer be obtainable at any price.



JUN 28 2024

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

... OR THIS ?

But some necessary development must take place after park sites are obtained and with the acquisition of each additional park acre, maintenance costs increase.

Very candidly, the Park District urgently needs a major increase in tax revenues if it is to keep commitments already made for both land acquisition and development.

Here is a synopsis of the Park District's tax dilemma:

From its founding year, 1934, until 1964, the District operated on a modest maximum levy of five cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. That amounted to about \$2 to \$2.50 annually on a home with a market value of \$20,000.

Since then, the legislature has twice approved a five-cent "override" (in the first instance, earmarked for land acquisition and capital improvement only) bringing the total tax to 10 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation.

In 1975, this 10-cent levy may revert to that nickel tax of 1934 but with one important difference: the inflated 1975 nickel will probably be worth less than half of that sum.

This year, park operation and maintenance will require six to seven cents of the total 10-cent tax; *before* 1975, it will swallow up the entire dime. Similarly, between now and 1975, we anticipate a deficit of from \$5,000,000 to \$7,000,000 because income must be balanced against a gradually increasing backlog of renovation of park facilities and urgently needed land acquisition and development.

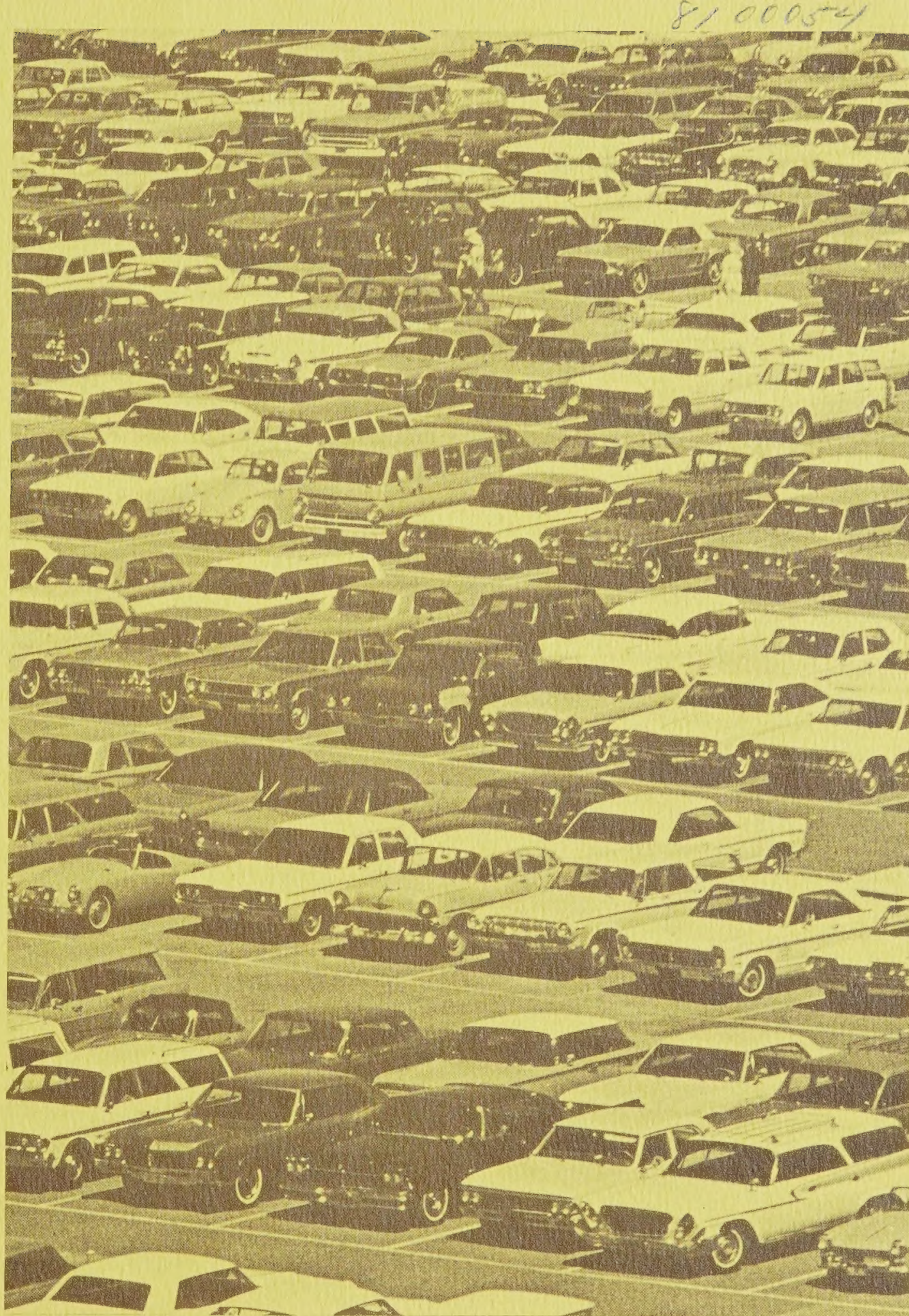
This, then, briefly sums up our tax dilemma.

Barry Commoner, the distinguished Director of the Center of the Biology of Natural Systems, Washington University, St. Louis, Mo., observed recently in discussing California's plight at the threshold of a new decade:

"The natural resources of California, once a magnet that attracted thousands who sought a good life, now harbor threats to health . . . The environmental crisis is a grim challenge . . ."

JOHN A. MACDONALD

President, East Bay Regional Park District





ALAMEDA COUNTY

Conscious of its commitments to develop park lands it has acquired, East Bay Regional Park District Directors have budgeted \$608,150 for major capital development in 1970 at Anthony Chabot Regional Park.

Other progress high spots for the Alameda County portion of the two-county Park District included the dedication in September of the 100-acre Don Castro Regional Recreation Area with its novel swim lagoon; receipt of land valued at more than \$250,000 through the generosity of the Sand and Gravel Division of Kaiser Industries for the development of 144-acre Shadow Cliffs Aquatic Park near Pleasanton which is scheduled to open in 1970; completion of the \$537,425 instalment purchase of the 473-acre Garin Ranch property near Hayward; and the leasing of 1295 additional acres at Sunol Valley Regional Park bringing the total there to 4063. This is the park where, with substantial aid from the public, the Park District won the first round in a fight to block operation of a 30-year day-and-night rock quarry on adjacent lands.

At Alameda Memorial State Beach, work is well under way on the \$400,000 first phase development of a three-part program. The state, which holds title to the property, operated by the Park District, is providing some \$280,000. The \$100,000 bathhouse complex—destroyed by an incendiary fire when half-finished—is scheduled for completion in early 1970. There will be a snack bar complex, a short boardwalk and seawall, off-street parking for 800, turfed areas and a Day Camp facility to which the Alameda Girl Scouts have contributed \$5000.

Construction is nearly complete on a novel marine-oriented nature study classroom at Alameda Beach for which the civic-minded Alameda Rotary Club donated some \$11,000. The Montclair Lions Club provided funds for Redwood Regional Park trail markers.

Richard C. Trudeau, who had been serving as Acting General Manager of the two-county Park District for a year, was confirmed in the position by the Board of Directors in May, 1969; a month later, the District marked its 35th anniversary with a gala luncheon at which Park District founders were honored.

There has been no lack of activity—"star parties" at Sunol; nature hikes in many of the parks; the Bay Regional Golf Tournament and the Little Farm Fun Fair at Tilden; the annual fishing derby at Lake Chabot; and the popular sand castle contest at Alameda Beach, to name a few.



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

In today's ecological crisis, someone has voiced the plaintive cry: "Where is America the Beautiful?"

For a quick answer, look to Contra Costa County and the East Bay Regional Park District's 3100-acre Briones Regional Park.

In this natural wonderland, capital development totaling \$523,800 has been budgeted for 1970 for the northern end of the park. Underlining the basic idea that "parks are for people," a 20-acre archery range was developed in the southeast portion of the park; a Youth Camping Shelter was constructed with the aid of the San Francisco Bay Girl Scout Council; and through the generosity of the Orinda Woman's Club, construction began on a \$10,500 Children's Environmental Play Area.

Adding broad strokes to this Contra Costa County "open space profile," final steps were taken to acquire 985 additional acres to provide a 1465-acre Las Trampas Regional Park in the hills west of Danville and Alamo; at year's end, the long-heralded Pt. Richmond Shoreline Park which will total some 200 acres—many currently submerged—was nearing the deed-signing stage. The Santa Fe Railway will sell some of the land to the Park District; it will give 44 tideland acres. Further north, the concept of a Pt. Pinole Shoreline Park moved closer to realization with the Park District entering discussions with the State Lands Commission on lease of 161 acres.

With the purchase of 1018 acres in Lower Wildcat Canyon, application was made in April for a second \$350,000 grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in matching funds for acquisition.

The year saw the signing by the Park District of a joint agency agreement with the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District for operation of recreational facilities at the projected 200-acre water-oriented Arroyo del Cerro Regional Park near Walnut Creek when it opens about four years hence. The Park District's investment will approximate \$550,000. Prospects looked brighter at year's end for a Mines Area Regional Park south of Pittsburg. Contra Loma Regional Park experienced a second successful summer swim season with permanent utilities to be installed and the fishing program officially approved.

Recent remarks of Walter J. Hickel, Secretary of the Interior, provide a provocative footnote to this report:

"There is 'environmental uneasiness' throughout the land. When polls show that the people are willing to pay more taxes to clean up the environment, then you know they really mean it . . ."



A 14-mile segment in the Park District's network of trails may bring recognition from the Federal Government as the first National Recreation Trail. Here, horsemen ride in Anthony Chabot Regional Park.

With only a few miles of Bay shoreline available to the public for recreation, the imminent conclusion of negotiations for a future park at Pt. Richmond was encouraging.



Tilden Park's charming "Little Farm" for small fry was the site of an innovative "Fun Fair" with such events as chasing a greased pig, tug-of-wars and sheep shearing.



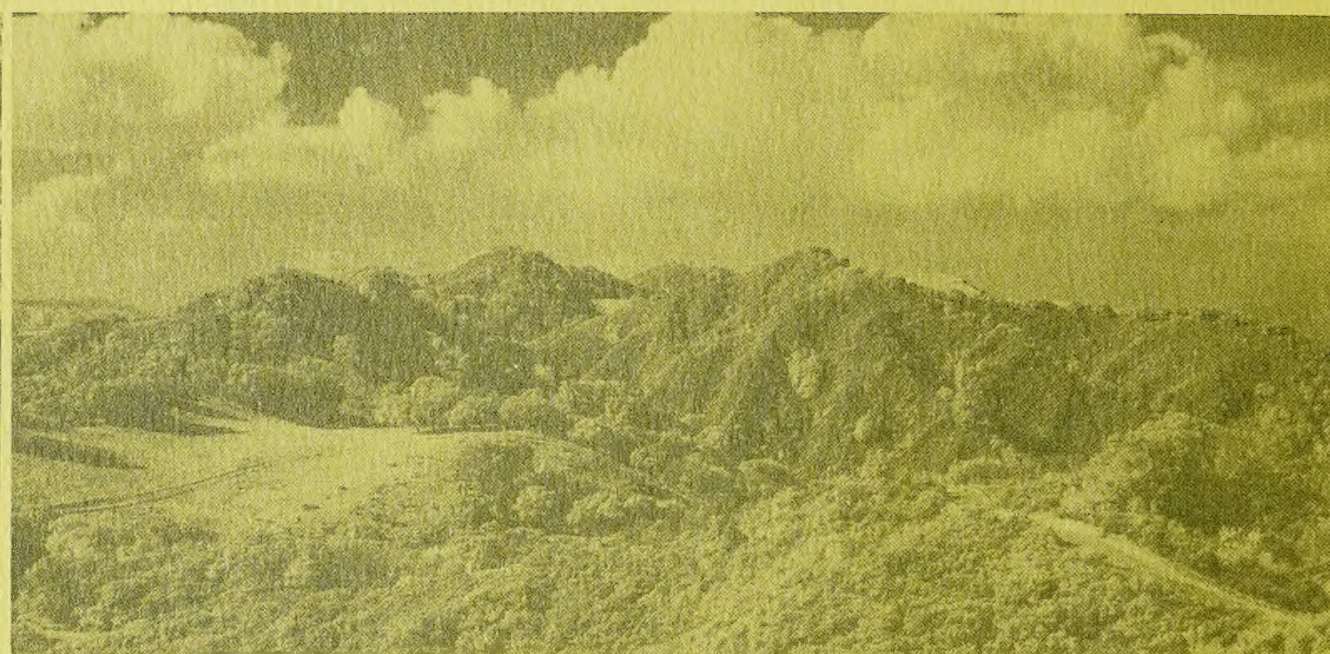
Water-oriented Contra Loma Regional Park near Pittsburg and Antioch enjoyed a second summer swim season with soaring attendance. A fishing program was officially approved.



To aid hikers in exploring 3100-acre Briones Regional Park, fence-straddling stiles have been placed at strategic locations.

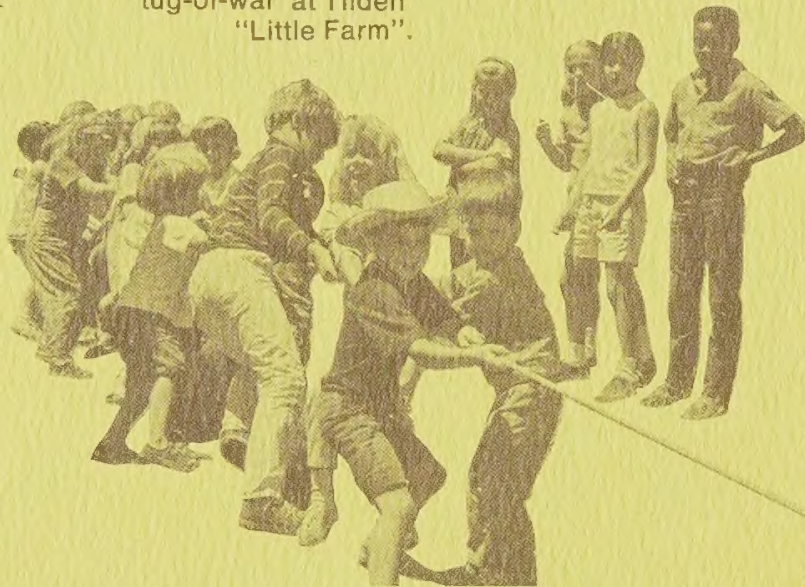


KENNEDY GROVE—El Sobrante sylvan acres.

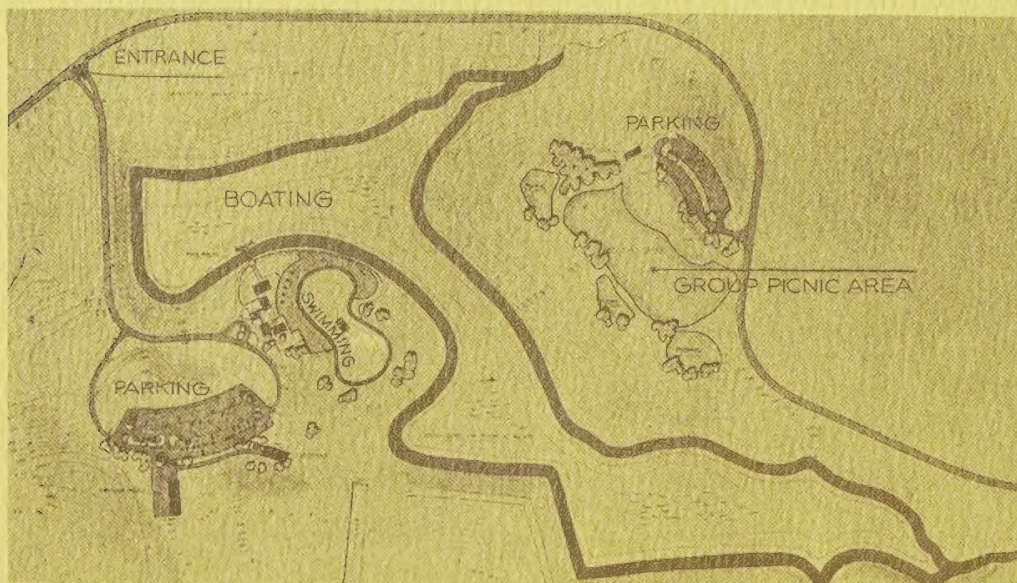
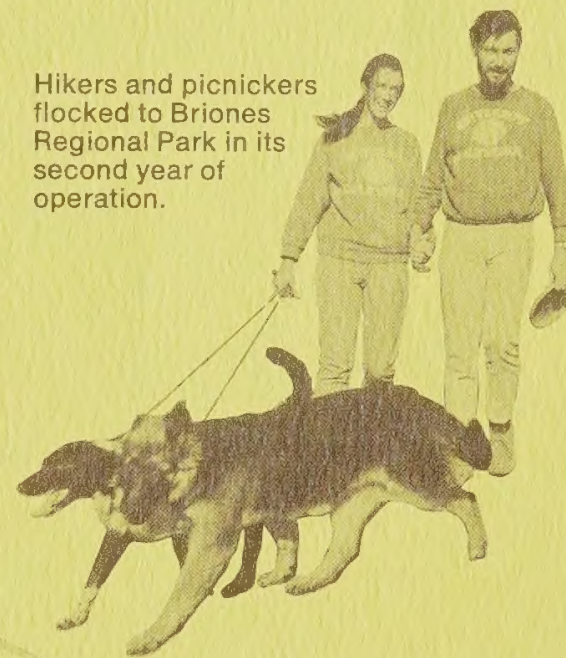


LAS TRAMPAS—Newly-acquired lands near Danville—Jim Hokanson photo

Bird watchers took to the marshlands at Coyote Hills Regional Park; tug-of-war at Tilden "Little Farm".



Hikers and picnickers flocked to Briones Regional Park in its second year of operation.



ARROYO DEL CERRO—Proposed Walnut Creek area swim facility.



LAKE TEMESCAL—Swimming in the heart of Oakland.



WILDCAT CANYON—Contra Costa County park pastoral.



BRIONES—A 3100-acre wonderland with a Mexican heritage.

Youthful visitor swings at Roberts Recreation Area, which features popular swimming pool and picnic sites



Crowds increased in 1969 at the second annual Lake Chabot Fishing Derby.



The Park District's only island park—Brooks Island off Richmond's Inner Harbor—awaits development funds; cash applications are pending.



CULL CANYON—Award-winning swim area near Castro Valley.



DON CASTRO—Newly-opened Southern Alameda County swim lagoon.



Don Castro Regional Recreation Area, primarily a swim facility, was dedicated September 9, 1969. The Aahmes Shrine Mounted Patrol provided some of the color. From left, the presiding officials were Dr. McCune, president, Cal State, Hayward; Adolfo Dominguez, Consul General, Mexico; General Manager Trudeau; and William Penn Mott, Jr., State Parks Department Director.



Shadow Cliffs Aquatic Park on the outskirts of Pleasanton is scheduled to open in 1970. The gift of a depleted but valuable quarry site by the Kaiser interests made the park possible. The 144-acre park with its 74-acre lake is planned to offer swimming, fishing, boating and related activities. There will be a two-acre sandy beach.



The Park District reached its 35th birthday in 1969 and to mark the event, a luncheon was held honoring the Park District founders. From left, a luncheon table scene; the novel "red garter" registration; and District President Macdonald presenting Mrs. Robert Sibley, widow of a former District President, with "change of name" certificate signifying fact Round Top Regional Park was now Robert Sibley Regional Park.



Sunol Valley Regional Park in Southern Alameda county, now 4063 acres in extent, offers a challenging mix of hiking, scenic vistas, horseback riding, picnic sites and nature study opportunities.



Camp Ohlone, 240-acre wilderness enclave, close to Sunol Park, offers youngsters a camping experience with expert supervision. New campers and "old timers" combined forces in mid-1969. Nature study is emphasized.

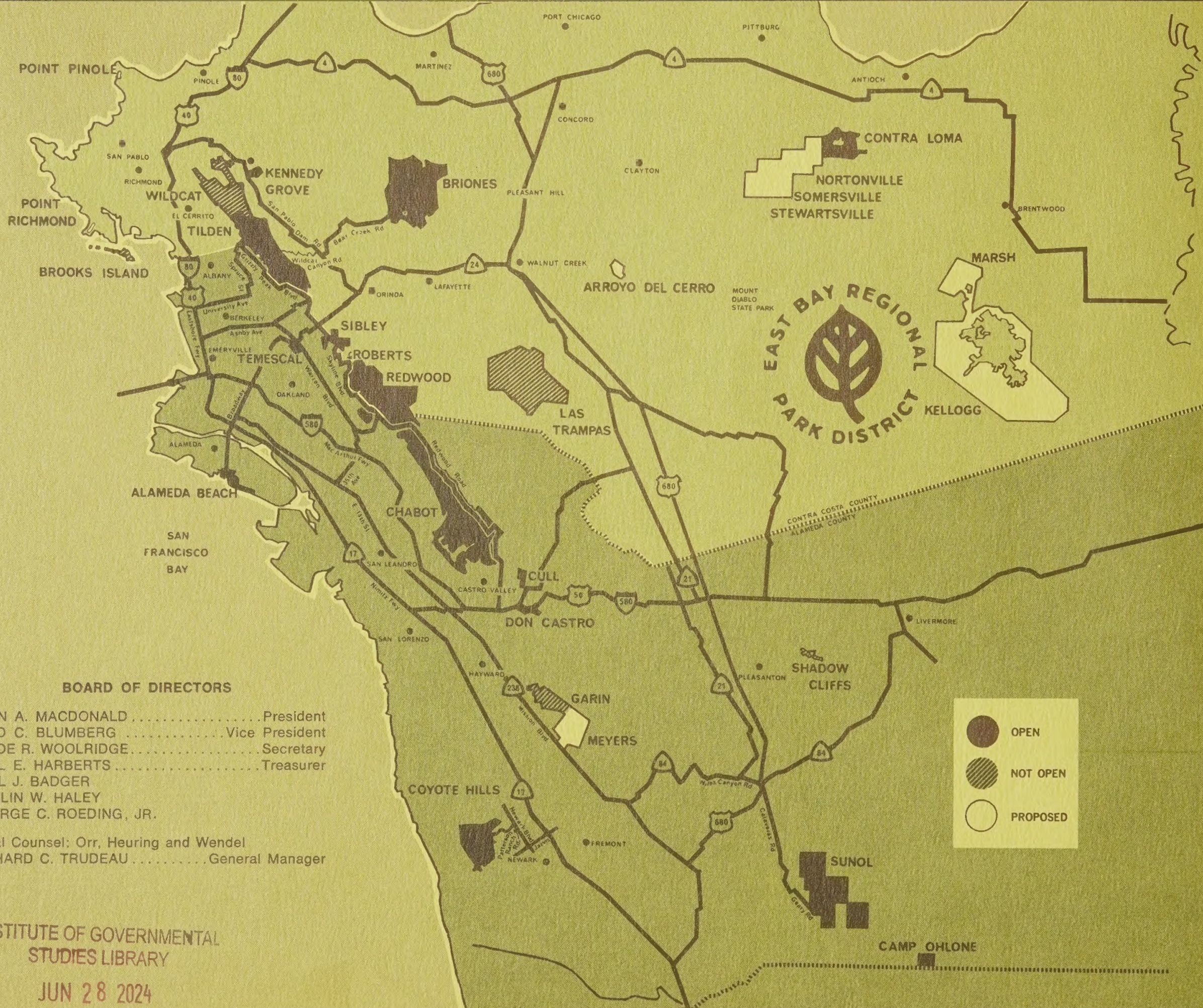


Attractive in its six-sided architecture and blending into the woodsy background, the new Youth Camping Shelter at Hawk Ridge, Chabot Regional Park, was dedicated in 1969. The Metropolitan Alameda County YMCA helped defray the building cost.



One of the key Bay Area environmental issues of 1969 was whether a 30-year day-and-night rock quarry should be permitted to operate adjacent to wilderness area Sunol Park. At left is Apperson Ridge over which the battle raged; at right, General Manager Trudeau (left) and Interpretive Chief Christian Nelson consider "campaign material". With public assistance, the Park District won the first round before the Board of Supervisors.





BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JOHN A. MACDONALDPresident
 FRED C. BLUMBERGVice President
 CLYDE R. WOOLRIDGE.....Secretary
 PAUL E. HARBERTSTreasurer
 PAUL J. BADGER
 MARLIN W. HALEY
 GEORGE C. ROEDING, JR.

Legal Counsel: Orr, Heuring and Wendel
 RICHARD C. TRUDEAUGeneral Manager

INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENTAL
 STUDIES LIBRARY

JUN 28 2024

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN WITH 5 CENT TAX OVER-RIDE

Cumulative from July 1, 1964 to June 30, 1969

U.C. BERKELEY LIBRARIES



C123306895

ALAMEDA COUNTY

SOURCE OF FUNDS

Property Taxes	\$4,673,581
Grants — Federal and State	1,929,757
Local Contributions	40,361
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS	\$6,643,699

USE OF FUNDS

LAND:

Coyote Hills	\$1,774,855
Garin Ranch	479,684
Sunol — Camp Ohlone	75,961
Anthony Chabot	198,748
Redwood — various parcels	114,720
TOTAL LAND	\$2,643,968

DEVELOPMENT:

Tilden Regional Park:	
Lake Anza Swim Complex	\$ 236,076
District Service Yard and Central Stores	212,842
Golf Course — First Tee	33,636*
Interpretive Center Plans	46,331
Camping Shelter	18,817
Various Projects	43,344
Train and Steamer Complex	65,659
Lake Temescal Regional Recreation Area:	
Beach, Bathhouses, Picnic Areas, Clubrooms	234,987
Redwood Regional Park:	
Remodeling of District Offices and Park Master Plan	48,493
Anthony Chabot Regional Park:	
Lake Chabot Marina	151,951
Master Plans, Roads, Shelter	103,559
Land Lease	33,536
Cull Canyon Regional Recreation Area:	
Swim Complex and Lagoon, Service Yard	397,248
Don Castro Regional Recreation Area:	
Swim Complex and Lagoon	492,706
Sunol Valley Regional Park:	
Trails, Roads and Camp Ohlone	43,797
Alameda Beach Memorial State Park:	
Phase I Development	397,359
Coyote Hills Regional Park:	
Preliminary Planning and Development	49,174
TOTAL DEVELOPMENT	\$2,609,515

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

SOURCE OF FUNDS

Property Taxes	\$2,592,796
Grants — Federal, State and County	988,623
Advanced From General Fund and Bank Loan	1,745,960
Local Contributions	5,001
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS	\$5,332,380

USE OF FUNDS

LAND:

Briones Regional Park	\$1,186,824
Las Trampas Regional Park	176,860
Wildcat Canyon Regional Park	1,996,764
Brooks Island	655,662
Mines Area	99,257
Pt. Richmond	7,425
TOTAL LAND	\$4,122,792

DEVELOPMENT:

Kennedy Grove Regional Recreation Area	\$ 259,314
Briones Regional Park and Shelter	213,558
Contra Loma	147,361
District Service Yard and Central Stores	99,405
TOTAL DEVELOPMENT	\$ 719,638

OTHER:

Departmental Expenses	\$ 324,491
Equipment Purchases	75,008
Interpretive Displays	25,178
Other Planning, Investigations, and Expense	65,273

TOTAL OTHER

TOTAL USE OF FUNDS

\$ 489,950
\$5,332,380

ALAMEDA COUNTY, continued

OTHER:

Departmental Expenses	\$ 400,813
Equipment Purchases	131,317
Interpretive Displays	34,104
Other Planning, Investigation and Expense	47,717

TOTAL OTHER

Funds Held to Complete Present and Future Projects

TOTAL USE OF FUNDS

\$ 613,951
\$ 776,265
\$6,643,699

*An additional \$115,581 was spent from the General Fund for the driving range and fairway rehabilitation.

